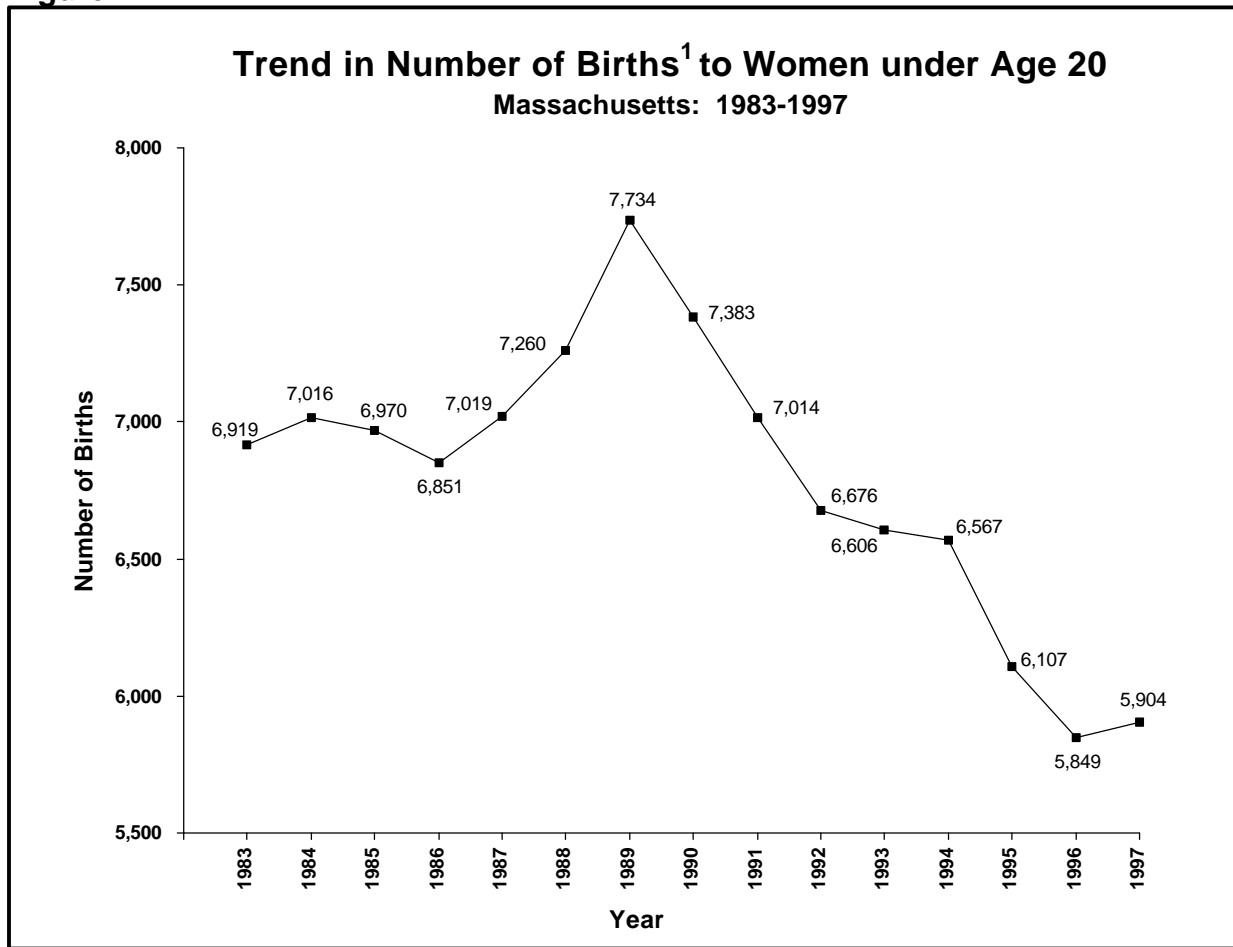


I.

*Demographic
and Birth
Characteristics*

Figure 1.

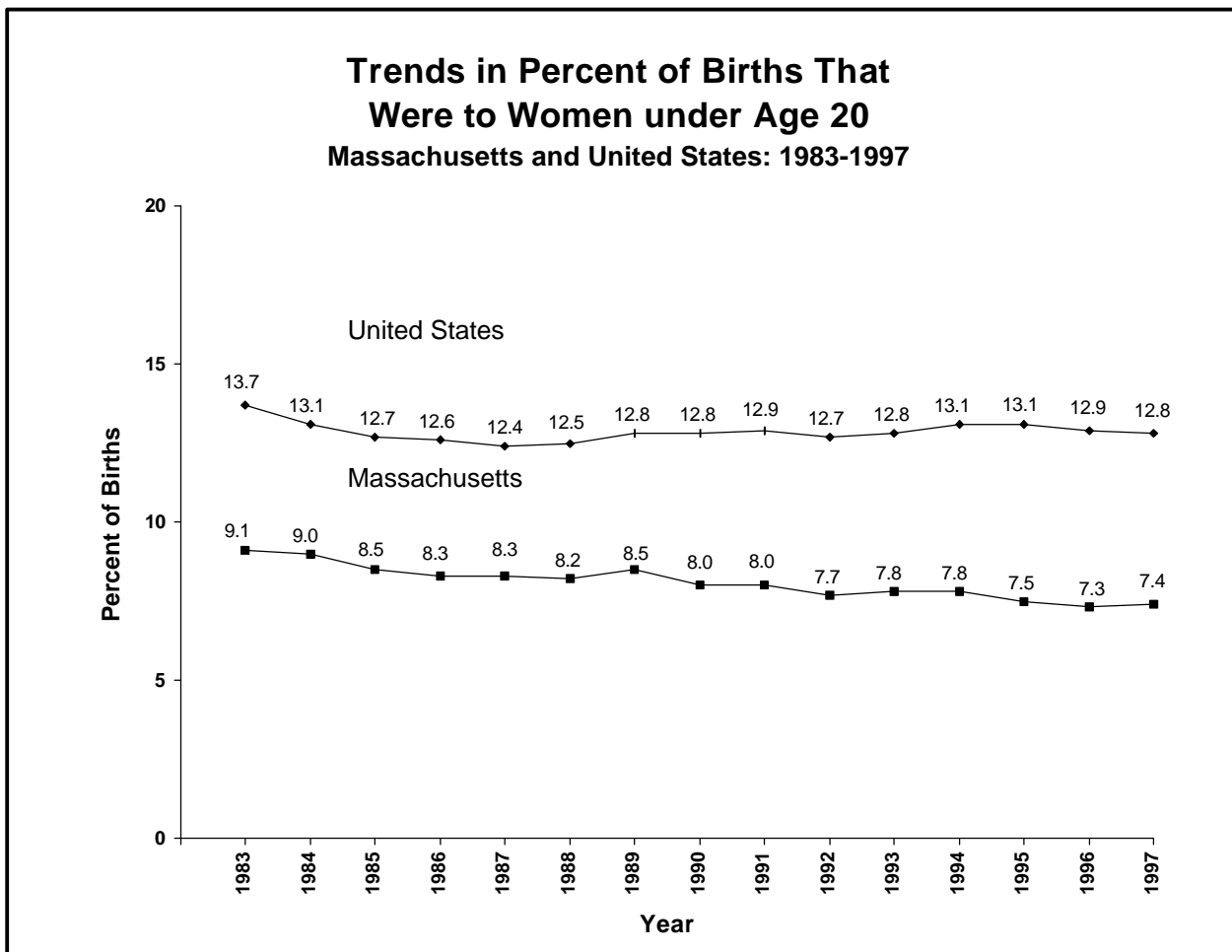


Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1997.

¹ Live births to Massachusetts residents.

- In 1997, 5,904 infants were born to women under age 20, an increase of 55 births from the previous year.
- The 1997 number of teen births was the first increase since 1989. Since its peak in 1989, the number of births to teens has declined by 23.7%, whereas the number of births to all women in Massachusetts declined by 12.0% (data not shown).

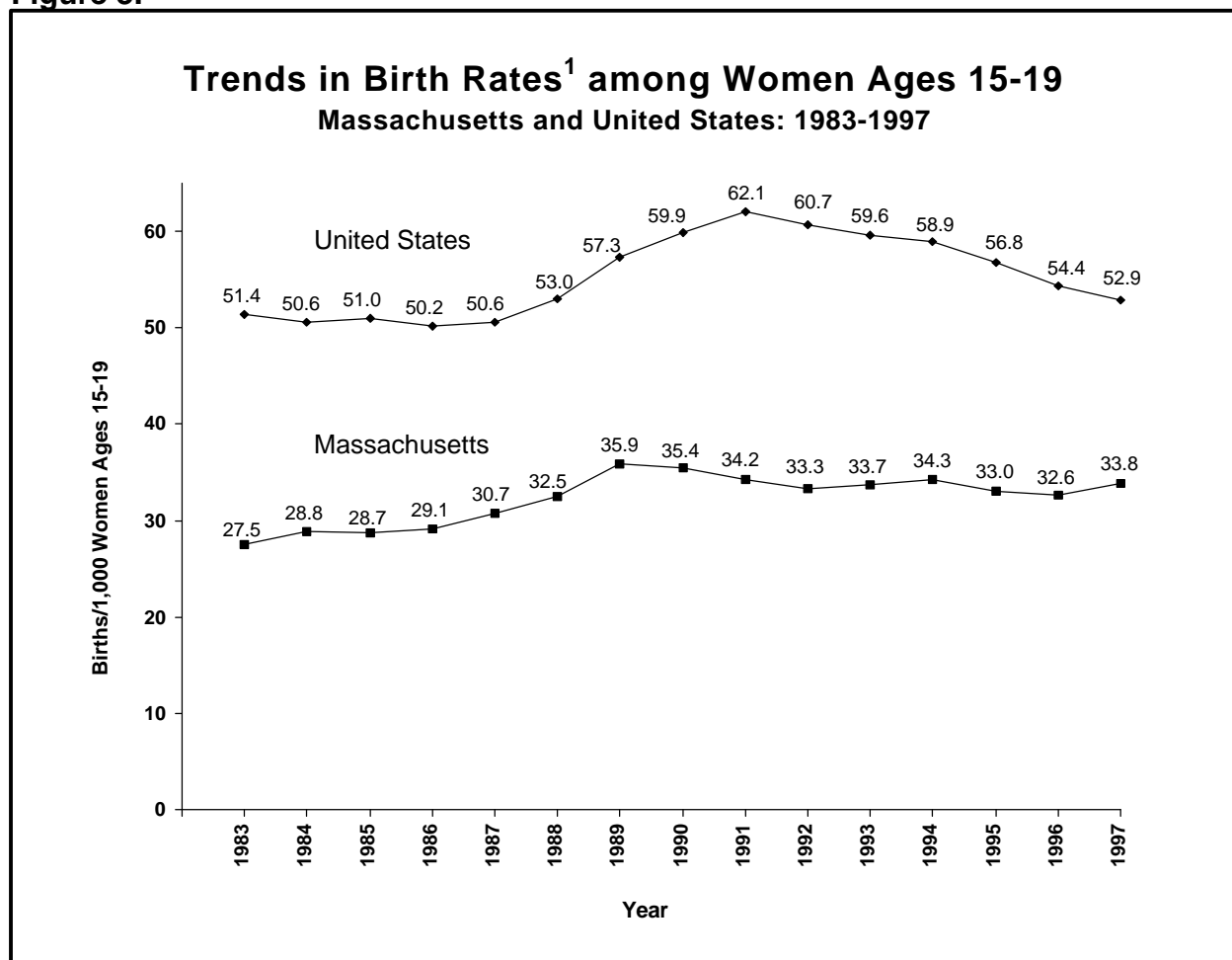
Figure 2.



Sources: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1997; National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1997. Please note that NCHS 1997 data are *preliminary*.

- In 1997, 7.4% of all births in Massachusetts were to women under age 20, changing little from the previous year (7.3%).
- Since 1983, the percentage of births that were to women under age 20 has decreased from 9.1% to 7.4%.
- In 1997, the percentage of Massachusetts births that were to teen mothers (7.4%) continued to be well below the 1997 national percentage of 12.8%.

Figure 3.



Sources: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1997; National Center for Health and Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1997. Please note that the NCHS 1997 data are *preliminary*.

¹ Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19.

- The 1997 Massachusetts teen birth rate was 33.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. The teen birth rate changed little from the previous year, increasing slightly from 32.6 births per 1,000 15-19 year old women. The 1997 teen birth rate has declined 5.8% since 1989, when it was at its highest point (35.9).
- The Massachusetts teen birth rate continued to be considerably lower than the national teen birth rate. The 1997 Massachusetts rate was 36.1% lower than the 1997 national rate (52.9/1,000 women ages 15-19).
- While the U.S. teen birth rate continued to be higher than the state's, the U.S. rate has shown a steadier and faster decline over the past 6 years. Between 1991 and 1997, the U.S. teen birth rate declined by 14.8%, while the Massachusetts state rate declined by 1.1%.

Table 1.
Trends in Teen Births by Mother's Age
Massachusetts: 1992-1997

Mother's Age	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-19	6,676	100.0	6,606	100.0	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0
12-13	18	0.3	16	0.2	24	0.4	19	0.3	11	0.2	19	0.3
14	103	1.5	121	1.8	131	2.0	98	1.6	80	1.4	84	1.4
15	341	5.1	360	5.4	371	5.6	356	5.8	342	5.8	290	4.9
16	782	11.7	741	11.2	822	12.5	721	11.8	687	11.7	694	11.8
17	1,327	19.9	1,259	19.1	1,244	18.9	1,203	19.7	1,115	19.1	1,121	19.0
18	1,753	26.3	1,872	28.3	1,758	26.8	1,648	27.0	1,666	28.5	1,613	27.3
19	2,352	35.2	2,237	33.9	2,217	33.8	2,062	33.8	1,948	33.3	2,083	35.3

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH: 1992-1997.

- In 1997, 62.6% of all teen births were to women ages 18-19 years, 35.7% were to women ages 15-17 years, and 1.7% were to women under age 15.
- Overall, the age distribution of teen women giving birth has changed little in the last six years, with the proportion of teen births occurring among women under age 18 remaining below 40% (37.4%) in 1997.
- Compared to 1996, the percentage of 1997 teen births that were to 15-year-old women decreased from 5.8% to 4.9%, while the percentage of teen births that were to 19-year-old women increased from 33.3% to 35.3%.

Table 2.
Trends in Teen Births¹ by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1992-1997

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	6,676	100.0	6,606	100.0	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0
White*	3,547	53.1	3,450	52.2	3,303	50.3	3,209	52.5	2,952	50.5	2,865	48.5
Black*	1,058	15.8	1,003	15.2	997	15.2	865	14.2	810	13.8	794	13.4
Hispanic	1,737	26.0	1,809	27.4	1,950	29.7	1,727	28.3	1,722	29.4	1,807	30.6
Asian*	178	2.7	180	2.7	188	2.9	163	2.7	164	2.8	214	3.6
Other*	147	2.2	156	2.4	126	1.9	134	2.2	155	2.7	205	3.5
Unknown	9	0.1	8	0.1	3	**	9	0.1	46	0.8	19	0.3

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH: 1992-1997.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Births to women ages 12-19.

- Approximately half of all 1997 teen births (<20 years of age) continued to be to white non-Hispanic women (48.5%). This proportion has declined from 53.1% in 1992.
- Between 1992 and 1997, the proportion of births that were to black non-Hispanic teens also showed a steady decline, from 15.8% to 13.4%. During the same period, the proportions that were to Hispanic and Asian teen women increased, from 26.0% to 30.6% for Hispanics and from 2.7% to 3.6% for Asians.

Table 3.
Teen Births by Mother's Age and Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1997

Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹
< 20	2,865	100.0	794	100.0	1,807	100.0	214	100.0	205	100.0	19	100.0	5,904	100.0
18-19	1,972	68.8	464	58.4	1,011	55.9	108	50.5	129	62.9	12	63.2	3,696	62.6
16-17	783	27.3	268	33.8	612	33.9	80	37.4	66	32.2	6	31.6	1,815	30.7
12-15	110	3.8	62	7.8	184	10.2	26	12.1	10	4.9	1	**	393	6.7

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Percents are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- As seen in previous years, a lower proportion of white non-Hispanic teen births were to women under age 18 (31.2%) compared with the proportions among black non-Hispanic, Hispanic, or Asian teen births (41.6%, 44.1%, and 49.5%, respectively).
- Across race/ethnicity groups, there were slight changes from 1996 and 1997 in the proportion of births that were to younger teens (under age 18). The proportion of births that were to younger teens declined among white non-Hispanic women (from 33.2% to 31.2%) and declined slightly among Hispanic teen women (from 44.4% to 44.1%). The proportion of births to younger teens increased slightly among Asian women (48.8% to 49.3%) and among black non-Hispanic women (from 41.3 % to 41.6%) (1996 data not shown).
- The proportions of births to black non-Hispanic (7.8%), Hispanic (10.2%) and Asian (12.1%) women under age 16 in 1997 were more than twice as high as the proportion among white non-Hispanic women (3.8%).
- The proportion of births to 12-15-year-old teens decreased from the previous year among white non-Hispanic (from 4.9% to 3.8%) and black non-Hispanic births (from 9.6% to 7.8%); among Hispanic births, this proportion was virtually unchanged (from 10.1 to 10.2%)(1996 data not shown).

Table 4.
Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1997

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	Under 18 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages ¹	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births	2,208	100.0	3,696	100.0	5,904	100.0	74,414	100.0	80,321	100.0
White*	893	40.4	1,972	53.4	2,865	48.5	58,277	78.3	61,143	76.1
Black*	330	14.9	464	12.6	794	13.4	4,663	6.3	5,457	6.8
African-American	278	12.6	368	10.0	646	10.9	2,640	3.5	3,286	4.1
West Indian	14	0.6	26	0.7	40	0.7	466	0.6	506	0.6
Haitian	14	0.6	34	0.9	48	0.8	817	1.1	865	1.1
Other Black	24	1.1	36	1.0	60	1.0	740	1.0	800	1.0
Hispanic	796	36.1	1,011	27.4	1,807	30.6	6,403	8.6	8,211	10.2
Puerto Rican	613	27.8	696	18.8	1,309	22.2	3,068	4.1	4,377	5.4
Dominican	86	3.9	127	3.4	213	3.6	1,189	1.6	1,402	1.7
Central Amer.	47	2.1	94	2.5	141	2.4	974	1.3	1,115	1.4
Other Hispanic	50	2.3	94	2.5	144	2.4	1,172	1.6	1,317	1.6
Asian*	106	4.8	108	2.9	214	3.6	3,662	4.9	3,876	4.8
Vietnamese	16	0.7	34	0.9	50	0.8	590	0.8	640	0.8
Cambodian	57	2.6	37	1.0	94	1.6	395	0.5	489	0.6
Other SE Asian	13	0.6	9	0.2	22	0.4	114	0.2	136	0.2
Chinese	5	0.2	8	0.2	13	0.2	1,121	1.5	1,134	1.4
Other Asian	15	0.7	20	0.5	35	0.6	1,442	1.9	1,477	1.8
Other*	76	3.4	129	3.5	205	3.5	1,222	1.6	1,427	1.8
Unknown	7	0.3	12	0.3	19	0.3	187	0.3	207	0.3

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

¹ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

² Percentages are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- In 1997, the proportions of births that were to black non-Hispanic and Hispanic teens (13.4% and 30.6%, respectively) were considerably higher than the proportions of births to non-teen mothers of those race/Hispanic ethnicity groups (6.3% for black non-Hispanic women and 8.6% among Hispanic women).
- Among teens younger than 18 years old, the proportion of white non-Hispanic births was considerably lower (40.4%) than the proportion among 18-19-year-old teens (53.4%). The reverse was true for black non-Hispanic, Hispanic and Asian births: the proportions of each were higher among births to younger teens (<18 years of age) and lower among births to older teen births (18-19 years of age).
- Over 1 out of 5 births to teens (<20 years of age) were to Puerto Rican women (22.2%), by far the largest single ethnic group among teen births.
- Puerto Rican women accounted for a greater proportion of Hispanic births among births to teens than among births to non-teens (72.4% vs. 47.9%, respectively).

Table 5.
Births by Mother's Age, Place of Birth, and Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1997

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	Under 20 Years				20 Years and Older			
	United States ¹		Other ²		United States ¹		Other ²	
	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³
Total Births	4,566	77.5	1,329	22.5	59,488	80.3	14,581	19.7
White*	2,782	97.3	78	2.7	54,079	93.1	3,999	6.9
Black*	688	86.9	104	13.1	2,708	58.6	1,910	41.4
African Amer.	635	98.6	9	1.4	2,517	95.7	114	4.3
West Indian	15	37.5	25	62.5	43	9.5	412	90.5
Haitian	6	12.5	42	87.5	29	3.6	787	96.4
Other Black	32	53.3	28	46.7	119	16.6	597	83.4
Hispanic	902	50.0	903	50.0	1,860	29.1	4,533	70.9
Puerto Rican	727	55.5	582	44.5	1,361	44.4	1,706	55.6
Dominican	62	29.1	151	70.9	114	9.6	1,074	90.4
Central Amer.	23	16.4	117	83.6	52	5.3	920	94.7
Other Hispanic	90	62.9	53	37.1	333	28.6	833	71.4
Asian*	45	21.0	169	79.0	294	8.2	3,296	91.8
Vietnamese	8	16.0	42	84.0	4	**	586	99.3
Cambodian	5	5.3	89	94.7	7	1.8	387	98.2
Other SE Asian	6	27.3	16	72.7	3	**	111	97.4
Chinese	5	38.5	8	61.5	122	11.3	959	88.7
Other Asian	21	60.0	14	40.0	158	11.2	1,253	88.8
Other*	136	66.3	69	33.7	419	34.7	789	65.3
Unknown	13	68.4	6	31.6	128	70.3	54	29.7

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

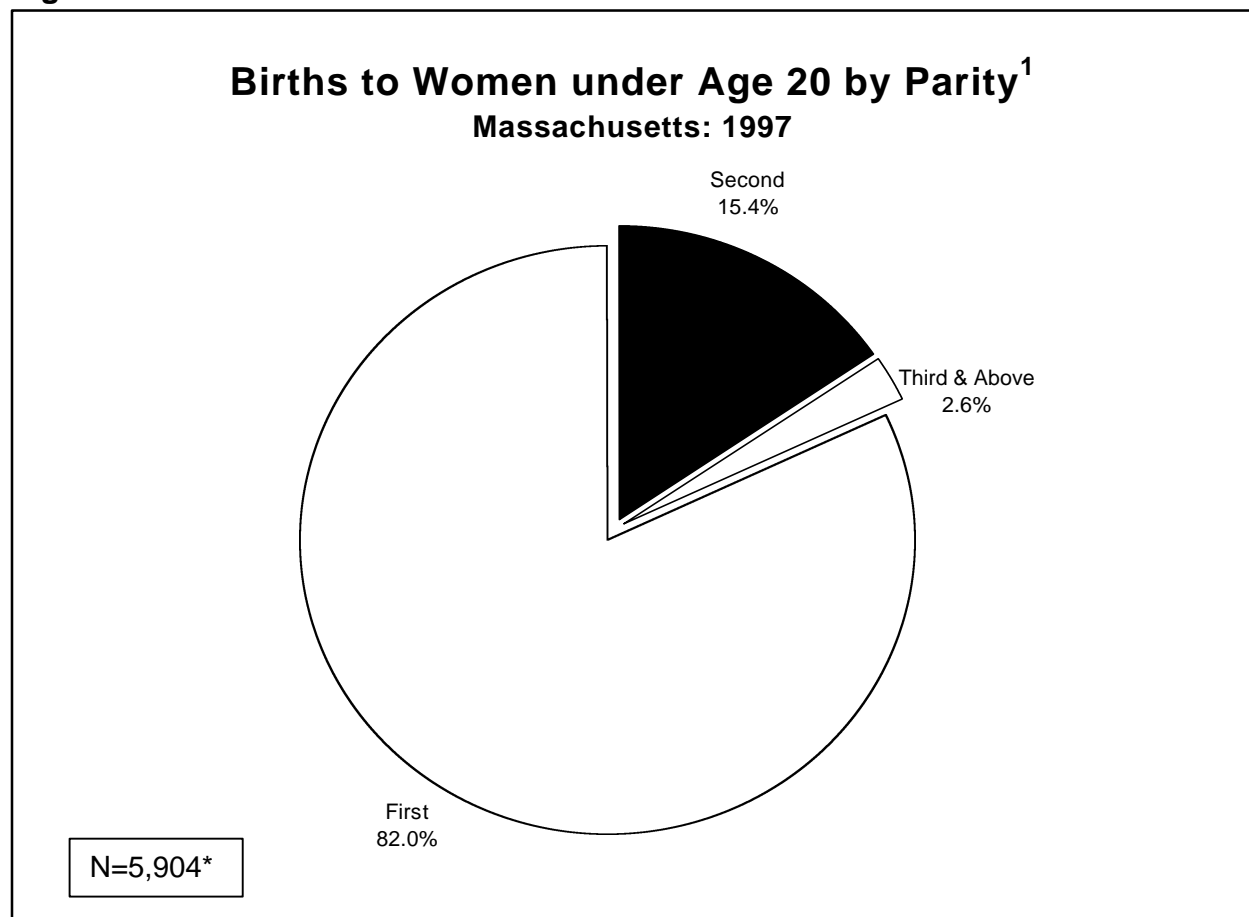
¹ United States includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

² Rest of the world, including Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

³ Percentages are based on known maternal country of origin; percentages are calculated on row totals within each age category.

- More than one out of every five (22.5%) teen mothers in 1997 was born outside the fifty United States and the District of Columbia; among older mothers (20 years and older), there was a slightly lower percentage (19.7%).
- The percentage of mothers born outside the U.S. varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity within each maternal age group. Among teen births, the majority of black non-Hispanic mothers were born in the U.S. (86.9%), in contrast to Asian teen mothers, the majority of whom were born outside the U.S (79.0%). A similar pattern was seen among older mothers.
- Half of Hispanic teen mothers were born outside the U.S. (50.0%). In contrast, 70.9% of older Hispanic mothers were born outside the U.S.
- Regardless of age, there was variation in the proportion of mothers born outside the U.S. across ethnic subgroups. Dominican and Central American women were more likely to have been born outside of the U.S. than Puerto Rican women. Similarly, West Indian and Haitian women were more likely to have been foreign-born compared to African-American mothers.
- Compared with the previous year, the proportion of Asian teen mothers who were born outside the U.S. decreased from 85.3% to 79.0% (1996 data not shown).

Figure 4.



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Percentages are based on births with known parity.

- In 1997, 18.0% of births to teens were to mothers with at least one prior live birth; 2.6% of teen births were to mothers with two or more prior live births. These figures showed little change from corresponding 1996 data (17.9% and 3.0%, respectively).

Table 6.
Births to Multiparous¹ Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1997

Multiparous Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages³	34,179	55.9	3,288	60.3	4,850	59.1	1,933	49.9	710	49.8	63	30.4	45,023	56.1
20 +	33,812	58.0	3,141	67.4	4,377	68.4	1,893	51.7	680	55.6	58	31.0	43,961	59.1
< 20	367	12.8	147	18.5	473	26.2	40	18.7	30	14.6	5	26.3	1,062	18.0
18-19	312	15.8	106	22.8	350	34.6	28	25.9	24	18.6	4	**	824	22.3
12-17	55	6.2	41	12.4	123	15.5	12	11.3	6	7.9	1	**	238	10.8

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Multiparous women have had at least one previous live birth.

² Percentages are based on the total number of births in each race/Hispanic ethnicity-age group (data not shown).

³ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The percentage of older teen mothers (ages 18-19) who had at least one prior live birth continued to decline, though slightly, from 22.7% in 1996, to 22.3% in 1997. The percentage of multiparous mothers among younger teens (12-17) rose slightly, from 10.3% in 1996, to 10.8% in 1997 (1996 data not shown).
- In 1997, more than one out of four births to Hispanic teen women (26.2%) were to mothers who already had at least one previous live birth.

Table 7.
Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity, Age,
and Prenatal Care Payment Source
Massachusetts: 1997

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	12 to 17 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages¹	
	N²	%³	N²	%³	N²	%³	N²	%³	N²	%³
Total Births³	2,207	100.0	3,688	100.0	5,895	100.0	74,309	100.0	80,206	100.0
Public⁴	1,486	67.3	2,570	69.7	4,056	68.8	15,550	20.9	19,607	24.4
Private⁵	615	27.9	973	26.4	1,588	26.9	55,648	74.9	57,236	71.4
White*	893	100.0	1,971	100.0	2,864	100.0	58,242	100.0	61,107	100.0
Public	472	52.9	1,173	59.5	1,645	57.4	7,748	13.3	9,393	15.4
Private	375	42.0	712	36.1	1,087	38.0	48,047	82.5	49,134	80.4
Black*	330	100.0	463	100.0	793	100.0	4,652	100.0	5,445	100.0
Public	233	70.6	366	79.0	599	75.5	2,321	49.9	2,920	53.6
Private	82	24.8	86	18.6	168	21.2	2,158	46.4	2,326	42.7
Hispanic	796	100.0	1,009	100.0	1,805	100.0	6,399	100.0	8,205	100.0
Public	649	81.5	838	83.1	1,487	82.4	4,021	62.8	5,509	67.1
Private	113	14.2	131	13.0	244	13.5	2,136	33.4	2,380	29.0
Asian*	106	100.0	108	100.0	214	100.0	3,658	100.0	3,872	100.0
Public	82	77.4	90	83.3	172	80.4	847	23.2	1,019	26.3
Private	22	20.8	18	16.7	40	18.7	2,697	73.7	2,737	70.7
Other*	76	100.0	129	100.0	205	100.0	1,219	100.0	1,424	100.0
Public	48	63.2	100	77.5	148	72.2	587	48.2	735	51.6
Private	20	26.3	23	17.8	43	21.0	567	46.5	610	42.8

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

¹ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

² Only births with known prenatal care payor source are included.

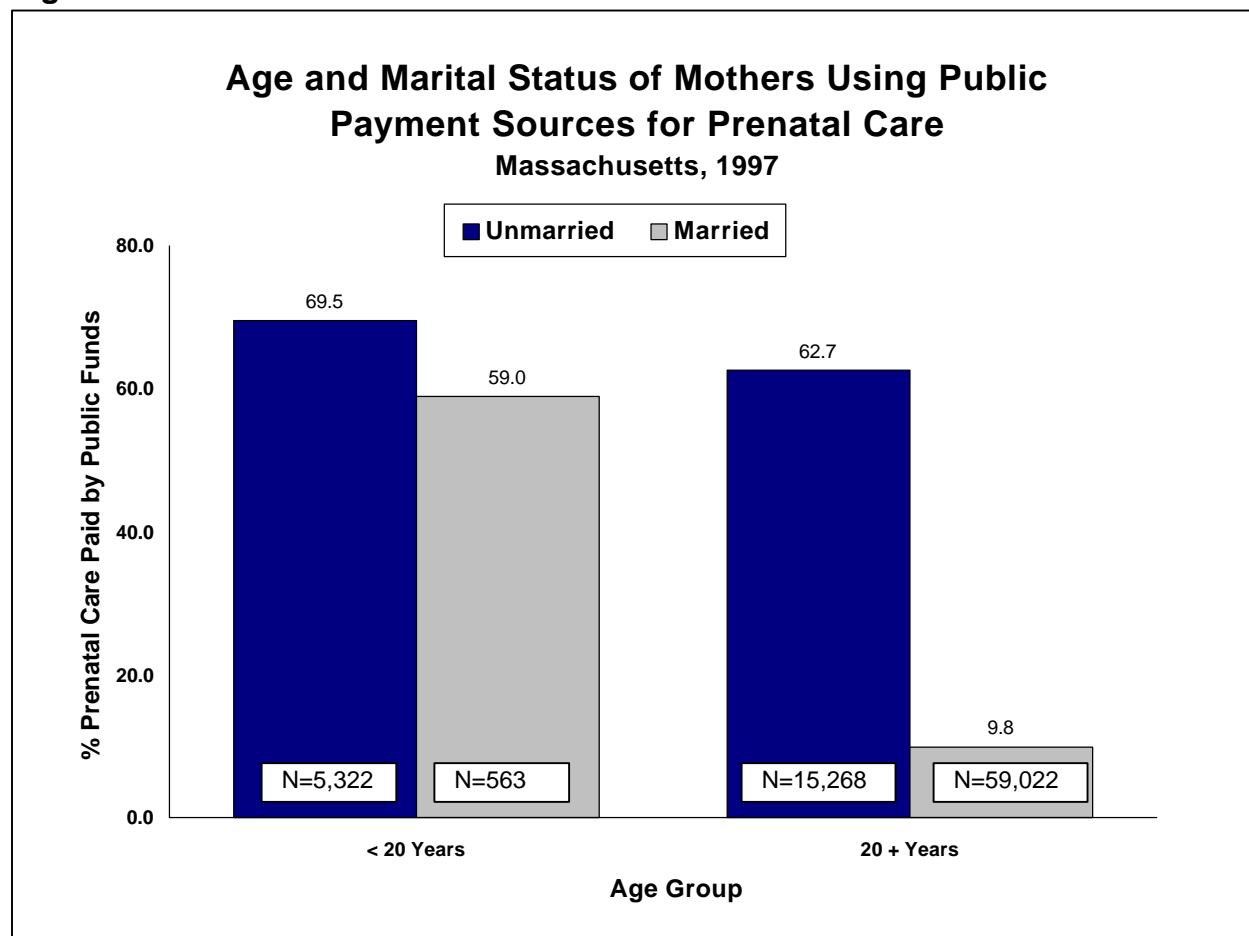
³ Percentages are based on race/Hispanic ethnicity totals. Percentages for "Public" and "Private" do not add up to 100 because the total includes "Other" sources (Workers Compensation and self pay. Data not shown).

⁴ Public: Mass Health (Medicaid), Medicare, Healthy Start, free care and other government programs. Free care was included in this category for the first time in 1997 (see Technical Notes); therefore, these data are not comparable with prior reports.

⁵ Private: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, other commercial insurance, and HMO. "HMO" may include Mass Health (Medicaid) recipients in managed care programs.

- The percentage of teen mothers whose prenatal care was supported through public funds was 68.8%. In contrast, only 20.9% of women 20 and older had their prenatal care supported through public funds in 1997.
- Among teen mothers, the percentage receiving publicly funded prenatal care varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity: 57.4% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers, 75.5% of black non-Hispanic teen mothers, 82.4% of Hispanic teen mothers, and 80.4% of Asian teen mothers received publicly funded prenatal care.
- Compared with teen mothers, the percentage of non-teen mothers who received publicly-funded prenatal care was lower within each race/Hispanic ethnicity group. The difference between teens and non-teens was most pronounced among Asian mothers (80.4% and 23.2%, respectively), and least pronounced among Hispanic mothers (82.4% and 62.8%, respectively).

Figure 5.



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

- In 1997, 69.5% of unmarried teen mothers and 59.0% of married teen mothers received publicly-funded prenatal care. The unmarried teen figure changed little from 1996 (69.6%); the figure for married teens decreased from the previous year (62.2%). The contrast was much greater among adult mothers, with 62.7% of unmarried adult mothers having received publicly-funded prenatal care and only 9.8% of married adult mothers having received publicly-funded prenatal care. Both of these figures changed little from their corresponding 1996 numbers, 62.6% and 9.6%, respectively (1996 data not shown).

Table 8.
Trends in Births to Unmarried Mothers by Age of Mother
Massachusetts: 1992-1997

Unmarried Mother's Age	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹
All Ages²	22,612	25.9	22,345	26.4	22,302	26.6	20,857	25.6	20,429	25.5	20,640	25.7
20 +	16,750	20.8	16,462	21.1	16,416	21.3	15,370	20.4	15,147	20.4	15,300	20.6
< 20	5,862	87.8	5,883	89.1	5,886	89.6	5,487	89.9	5,282	90.3	5,339	90.4
18-19	3,462	84.3	3,515	85.5	3,433	86.4	3,210	86.5	3,145	87.0	3,216	87.0
12-17	2,400	93.4	2,368	94.8	2,453	94.6	2,277	95.0	2,137	95.6	2,123	96.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1992-1997.

¹ Percentages are based on total number of births within each category.

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The 1997 percentage of all Massachusetts births that were to unmarried women (25.7%) showed little change from 1996 (25.5%). The peak year was 1994, with 26.6% of all births occurring among unmarried women. Among teens, the percentage of births that were to unmarried women also showed little change between 1996 and 1997 (90.3% to 90.4%).
- In 1997, 96.2% of births to mothers ages 12-17 were to unmarried women, compared with 95.6% in 1996.

Table 9.
Births to Unmarried Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1997

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Ages¹	11,005	18.0	3,260	59.7	4,970	60.5	704	18.2	635	44.5	66	33.0	20,640	25.7
20+	8,424	14.5	2,490	53.4	3,369	52.6	512	14.0	457	37.4	48	26.5	15,300	20.6
< 20	2,581	90.1	770	97.0	1,600	88.5	192	89.7	178	86.8	18	94.7	5,339	90.4
18-19	1,717	87.1	441	95.0	848	83.9	92	85.2	107	82.9	11	91.7	3,216	87.0
12-17	864	96.8	329	99.7	752	94.5	100	94.3	71	93.4	7	100.0	2,123	96.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

¹ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried mothers varied substantially by race/Hispanic ethnicity in 1997, as it has in previous years. Among births to women of all ages, 18.0% of white non-Hispanic women were unmarried, while 59.7% of black non-Hispanic, 60.5% of Hispanic women, and 18.2% of Asian women were unmarried.
- There is considerably less variation in marital status by race/Hispanic ethnicity among teen mothers (< 20 years of age); 90.1% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers were unmarried, while 97.0% of black non-Hispanic, 88.5% of Hispanic, and 89.7% of Asian teen mothers were unmarried.

Table 10.
Trends in In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Age of Unmarried Mother
Massachusetts: 1992-1997

Unmarried Mother's Age	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Ages²	10,874	48.1	11,329	50.7	11,904	53.4	12,223	58.6	13,195	66.0	14,433	69.9
20+	8,192	48.9	8,487	51.6	8,944	54.5	9,251	60.2	9,939	67.1	10,906	71.3
< 20	2,682	45.6	2,842	48.3	2,960	50.3	2,972	54.2	3,256	62.8	3,526	66.0
18-19	1,631	47.1	1,812	51.6	1,785	52.0	1,833	57.1	1,999	65.0	2,199	68.4
12-17	1,051	43.8	1,030	43.5	1,175	47.9	1,139	50.0	1,257	59.7	1,327	62.5

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1992-1997.

¹ Paternity acknowledgment: voluntary self-acknowledgment by fathers or acknowledgment through legal action. This table reflects data collected in hospitals, at time of birth only (see Glossary for further explanation).

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried women with paternity acknowledgment in the birth hospital continued to increase, from 66.0% in 1996 to 69.9% in 1997. Between 1992 and 1997, in-hospital paternity acknowledgement of births to women of all ages has increased by 45.3%.
- Paternity acknowledgment occurred at a lower rate among unmarried teens than among unmarried adults. However, both groups have experienced consistent increases in paternity acknowledgment from 1992 through 1997. Paternity acknowledgment among births to adults increased from 67.1% in 1996 to 71.3% in 1997, while acknowledgment among teens increased from 62.8% in 1996 to 66.0% in 1997.
- An increase in paternity acknowledgment for infants born to unmarried teens occurred among both young teen mothers (12-17 years old) and older teens (18-19 years old). The percentage of paternity acknowledgment for births to older unmarried teens increased from 65.0% in 1996 to 68.4% in 1997, while the corresponding percentage among younger unmarried teen women increased from 59.7% in 1996 to 62.5% in 1997.

Table 11.
In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Unmarried Mother's
Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1997

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages³	8424	76.5	1755	53.8	3399	68.4	391	55.5	427	67.2	37	56.1	14,433	69.9
20+	6540	77.6	1405	56.4	2323	69.0	288	56.3	320	70.0	30	62.5	10,906	71.3
< 20	1884	73.0	350	45.5	1075	67.2	103	53.6	107	60.1	7	38.9	3,526	66.0
18-19	1286	74.9	222	50.3	571	67.3	52	56.5	63	58.9	5	45.5	2,199	68.4
12-17	598	69.2	128	38.9	504	67.0	51	51.0	44	62.0	2	**	1,327	62.5

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of births to unmarried mothers within each category.

³ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- Among women of all ages, in-hospital paternity acknowledgment varied widely by race/Hispanic ethnicity, ranging from a high of 76.5% among white non-Hispanic unmarried mothers to a low of 53.8% among black non-Hispanic unmarried mothers. However, paternity acknowledgment increased from 1996 to 1997 within each race/Hispanic ethnicity groups (data not shown).
- The variation in paternity acknowledgment across race/Hispanic ethnicity groups was seen among births to both adult and teen unmarried women. For both age groups, white non-Hispanics had the highest percentages, while black non-Hispanics and Asians had the lowest.
- Among the youngest teens (ages 12-17), black non-Hispanic unmarried mothers had the lowest percentage of paternity acknowledgment, with only 38.9% of births being acknowledged by the father.

Table 12.
Father's Age by Unmarried Mother's Age for Births with Acknowledged Paternity¹
Massachusetts: 1997

Unmarried Mother's Age	Father's Age													
	12-15		16-17		18-19		20-24		25-29		30 and Older		Total ³	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
20 +	0	0.0	44	0.4	326	3.0	2,777	25.5	3,349	30.7	4,355	39.9	10,906	100.0
< 20	40	1.1	424	12.0	1,036	29.4	1,556	44.1	321	9.1	128	3.6	3,526	100.0
< 18	33	2.5	287	21.6	455	34.3	444	33.5	73	5.5	22	1.7	1,327	100.0
18-19	7	0.3	137	6.2	581	26.4	1,112	50.6	248	11.3	106	4.8	2,199	100.0
16-17	14	1.2	207	18.5	405	36.1	396	35.3	69	6.2	21	1.9	1,121	100.0
12-15	19	9.2	80	38.8	50	24.3	48	23.3	4	**	1	**	206	100.0

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1997.

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of fathers whose ages were identified by unmarried mothers within each category.

³ "Total" includes fathers with unknown ages

- Among unmarried women ages 20 and older, 96.1% of the named fathers were also 20 and older. Among unmarried teens (<20 years of age), 56.8% of the named fathers were 20 and older, a slight decrease from 57.1% in 1996 (data not shown).
- Among unmarried teen mothers ages 16-17, the percentage of named fathers who were 20 and older increased from 41.8% in 1996 to 43.4% in 1997. Among 12-15 year old unmarried mothers, 25.7% of named fathers were 20 and older, 9.8% higher than the percentage in 1996 (23.4%) (1996 data not shown).